

where the security elements have at least one photoluminescent segment. The present invention also relates to a method of producing such security items as well as a method of using same. --

Replace paragraph [0004] with the following paragraphs:

-- However, one serious disadvantage of all these known security elements is that either the characteristic authenticity features are relatively difficult for a layperson to discern or they require complex equipment for detection, or on the other hand, an easily detectable authenticity feature may be counterfeited relatively easily. However, it is in the nature of the matter that security items are often replaced by newer products with newer security elements after a comparatively short period of time, in particular to prevent counterfeiting and other forms of abuse. Therefore, there has been an urgent need for new, secure and easily discernible security elements for security papers and for security items in general.

One solution that is interesting in this regard has already been described in International Patent Application WO-A-98 01817, where photoluminescence polarizers, where the emitted luminescence light is linearly polarized, are used as security elements for security objects. When this light is observed through a polarizer and the polarizer is rotated, the result for the observer is a light-dark effect because of the luminescence light which is either transmitted or not transmitted through the polarizer, depending on the rotational position. Although U.S. Patent Application 5,284,364 uses polarizers for security purposes, they are "ordinary" polarizers such as  $\lambda/2$  layers and are not photoluminescence polarizers.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

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One object of the present invention is to eliminate the above-mentioned disadvantages of the previously known security elements and to create security papers and other security items which are characterized by secure and easily discernible security elements. Another object of the invention is to create security papers and other security items whose identification is permitted or facilitated by such security elements or whose authenticity or validity is identified by such security elements. Additional objects of the present invention include the development of a method for producing these security items as well as the use thereof. The solution to these objects is characterized in the independent claims. --

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-17 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please add new claims 18-69 as follows:

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-- 18. A security item comprising at least one security element having at least one photoluminescent segment with a linearly polarized photoluminescence, wherein the segment has a dichroic ratio of 5 or more in emission.

19. The security item of claim 18, wherein the security element is in a form selected from a group consisting of fibers, threads, strips, films, sheets, layers, tapes, plates, disks, chips and/or combinations thereof.